

July 25-26, 2015

Thoughts from the pastor,

The week of Totus Tuus is always a very busy week. Having an extra Mass every day and having confessions for everyone makes for busy days. Having the School Sisters of Christ the King and the Marian Sisters join us from Lincoln was a real blessing. The younger children only had the CTK Sisters for an afternoon. The upper grades saw them in action for two evenings each. For many of the young people it was a very foreign concept for they really had never encountered Sisters in habits. They all seemed to enjoy it. One of the reasons that I was so glad to have them here was because they are part of what Totus Tuus means; “totally yours”. Just like priests, they have given their lives over to the Lord. They serve Him in so many wonderful ways. I hope that the young women of our parish will start to look seriously at this vocation.

Two weeks from now, August 8-9, Fr. Don and I will be having the Anointing of the Sick during all the weekend Masses. It has been over six months since we have done this and the warranty has probably worn off from the last one.

I have been thinking a lot of how people can be on such different wave lengths in terms of their thinking. There are actually many reasons. It might be because of different age brackets, different upbringing, different experiences or certainly different training. I was mulling over one particular aspect of the difference that is more subtle. It has to do with understanding any sense of tradition. It came to me as I was watching the movie, Mulan II. It is a Disney animation film based on Chinese culture. Mulan is a young woman who saves the day in the first movie, Mulan. In the second movie she is also on a mission to save her homeland but there is a twist that really made me think. It reminded me of the sixties when we threw out a lot of traditions.

The twist came in her way of thinking that was portrayed as saving the day. She was led “by her heart”. It sounded very romantic and positive. To do this she was rejecting “tradition.” The idea was to free the heart to do as it feels and not follow traditions that might lead to suffering or hardship. In an animated movie the writers can make the ending anything they want so this all came out wonderful. In real life it is not so easy. Everyone loves following their heart. They just don’t like it when everyone else follows their heart for some hearts are not even kind.

Just look at marriage as the backdrop for this way of thinking. Let’s just say you should only marry as your heart leads you and toss out some of the old traditions of marriage. That works good as long as some of those traditions hold firm. A person might want to get remarried and throw out the tradition of being married “until death do us part”. They follow their heart and decide the tradition of being married for life is silly. But what if your spouse follows their heart and decides that the tradition of fidelity is silly. Our culture has laughed at those two traditions for years. Now it is looking at throwing out the tradition of having children be a basis for marriage. Many have already done that. What if they throw out the tradition against marriage between two people? If it can be between a man and woman, and now a man and a man; can’t it be between a man and a boy, or a father and his daughter? What are the next traditions that we will throw out? While one person is throwing out one tradition the next person will be throwing out the tradition the first one took for granted. This is part of why people think differently. Some look at the consequences in their own life and some think in terms of others vulnerable souls. What things do you feel should be solid traditions?

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank